

What is claimed is:

1. A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:
 - A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;
 - B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar, the bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position;
 - C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end and a lens connected to the distal end of the fibers, the fibers extending through the first notch, the lens being disposed near the aperture defined by the bar when the bar is in the resting position, the fibers and lens providing a view of a region that extends from the lens through the aperture defined by the bar.
2. A device according to claim 1, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second notch, the fibers extending through the second notch.
3. A device according to claim 2, proximal end of the bar being attached to the backplate.
4. A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:
 - A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch

extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;

B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a supporting surface that supports a portion of an endotracheal tube when the endotracheal tube is inserted through the airway tube of the device, the ramp defining a second notch, the second notch being spaced apart from the supporting surface;

C. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the first notch and the second notch.

5. A device according to claim 4, further including a lens, the lens being attached to at least some of the fibers, the lens being spaced apart from the supporting surface.

6. A device according to claim 5, the mask portion including an epiglottis elevator bar extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the bar being positionable in a resting position and an open position, the distal end of the bar defining an aperture, the lens being disposed proximal to the aperture defined by the distal end of the bar when the bar is in the resting position.

7. A device according to claim 4, further including a collar, the collar defining an aperture, the fibers extending through the aperture defined in the collar.

8. A device according to claim 7, the collar being disposed adjacent to the ramp.

9. A laryngeal mask airway device, comprising:

A. a rigid airway tube extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the airway tube defining an internal passage, the airway tube further defining a first notch, the first notch extending along a length of the tube from a location on the tube towards the distal end of the tube;

B. a mask portion coupled to the distal end of the airway tube, the mask portion including a dome shaped backplate and an inflatable cuff, the cuff defining a central opening at least when inflated, the mask portion being insertable through a mouth of a patient to an inserted location within the patient, the cuff surrounding a glottic opening of the patient when inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, a sealed airway passage extending from the proximal end of the tube through the internal passage to the glottic opening when the cuff is inflated and when the mask portion is at the inserted location, the backplate defining a ramp, the ramp defining a second notch;

C. a collar disposed adjacent to the ramp, the collar defining an aperture;

D. one or more optical fibers extending from a proximal end to a distal end, the fibers extending through the first notch, the second notch, and the aperture defined in the collar.

10. A device according to claim 9, the collar defining at least one notch.